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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)
Liu et al.) Examiner
Serial No. 10/617,309) Barrett
Filed July 10, 2003) Art Unit
SPINAL IMPLANT METHOD AND) 3738
CUTTING TOOL PREPARATION)
ACCESSORY FOR MOUNTING THE)
IMPLANT)

I hereby certify that this correspondence
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August 24 2004
(Date of Deposit)

James B. Myers, Jr.

Name of Registered Representative

James B. Myers Jr.
Signature

**RESPONSE TO THE FIRST OFFICE ACTION
SUBMITTED UNDER 37 CFR §1.111**

Mail Stop Amendments
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2004, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments and consideration of the accompanying remarks.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this submission. The listing of claims beginning on page 2 replaces all prior version(s) of the claims.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this submission.

Additionally, please provide any extensions of time that may be necessary and charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but do not include any payment of issue fees that are or may become due.